

Martin's Corner House  
North side of Cedar Knoll Road (LR 15121),  
.15 mile east of Martin's Corner Road  
(LR 15185)  
Martin's Corner (West Caln Township)  
Chester County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-209

HABS  
PA,  
15-MARCO,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## MARTIN'S CORNER HOUSE

HABS PA,15-MARCO,1-

Location: County Road #15121, east of County Road #15185, West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners] 1956).

Present Owner: Otto K. Schwandt, Coatesville R.D. #2, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement of Significance: This log house, built about 1769, contains many unusual features, such as wood door hinges, wood crane, pegged floors, and fine board partitions.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: William Neely leased the place from ca 1796 on, while it had owners who were non-resident. Earliest deeds not recorded in Chester county. First deed recorded is:
  1. Alexander Fowler 1782 to Tench Coxse.
  2. Tench Coxse 1788 to William Neely.
  3. Sampson Sabb, sheriff (for exec. of William Neely) 1822 to Joseph Martin.
  4. Joseph Martin's exec. 1859 to Lewis Davis.
  5. Lewis Davis 1859 to John C. Martin.
  6. P. I. Nichols, sheriff, 1867 to Alexander Martin.
  7. Alexander Martin 1868 to Jane Martin.
  8. Jane Martin 1879 to R. W. Morton.
  9. R. W. Morton 1879 to Elizabeth Hackett.
  10. Elizabeth M. Hackett died 1902, who left it to daughter, Jennie M. Grow.
  11. Jennie M. Grow et al. 1909 to Martin O. Rees.
  12. Martin O. Rees 1912 to J. Frank Fagon.
  13. J. Frank Fagon 1917 to Barton E. Davidson.
  14. Barton E. Davidson 1926 to Emma V. Davidson.
  15. Emma V. Davidson 1940 to Otto K. Schwandt.
2. Date of erection: Before 1788, probably 1769 when the place seems to have been taxed for the first time with improvements.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: House not changed since 1798 when direct tax of Dept. of Internal Revenue measurements were taken.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: House remains practically unchanged since 1798, when direct tax of Dept. of Internal Revenue measurements were taken. There is a modern hood

over the door, and some parts of logs have been covered by plaster board. Stairway in N.W. room has been straightened, making only 1/4 turn instead of original 1/2 turn.

6. Important old views and references:

Views: None known.

References: Clipping and manuscript files in Chester County Historical Society under heading: West Caln Twp. Lands; and deeds and wills in Court House, West Chester, Pa.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: This structure is a fine, two-and-a-half story log house, little changed and with rare features such as wood door hinges, wood crane, and pegged floors.

The deed from Tench Coxse of Philadelphia to William Neeley of West Caln, Chester County (who had been leasing the farm for years) is dated 1788; and after the meets and bounds of the place is this unusual statement: "together with the Loghouse, Logbarn, and stable, and Log springhouse and Smoke house, now thereon erected."

- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

- D. Supplemental Material

"Village Record", 8-24-1858:

Real Estate At Public Sale.

"Will be sold at Public Sale, on Friday, the 24th of SEPTEMBER, 1858, on the premises, the following described FARM, late the property of Joseph Martin, deceased, situate in West Caln township, Chester county, containing ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR ACRES, bounded by lands of Lewis Davis, Alexander Martin, and others. The improvements consist of a DWELLING HOUSE, 36 by 30 feet, part stone and part log, plastered on the outside, four rooms on the first floor, and four on the second; BARN, 63 feet long, by 38 feet, part frame and part stone; Stone Spring House over a never failing spring; Wagon House, Corn Crib, Smoke House, Granaries above; Hog House, Wood House, and other out-buildings; about 20 acres of WOODLAND.--

The arable land is under good cultivation, having been well lined, well fenced, divided into convenient fields, and well watered. This farm is admirably calculated for a dairy. It is five miles north of the railroad at Coatesville, and on the public road leading from Guthriesville to the Compass, convenient to mills, schools, and places of worship. For a view of the property call on the undersigned, living adjoining.

"Sale to commence at 1 o'clock. Conditions made known by

Alexander Martin,

aug 17 tsp

Administrator."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: There have been few changes in the house since it was built.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories; 26' by 34'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Log.
4. Chimneys: Stone.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Window openings seem original; no shutters.
6. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Medium pitch, gable roof; modern covering.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Probably original.
  - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Four rooms on each floor; no hall on first floor.
2. Stairways: Original.
3. Flooring: There are excellent floors in this house - original pegged floor in South West room. Only house floor, pegged, to be found in the county this far.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed beams; partition board of high quality; some walls plastered, others have logs and chinking exposed. Plaster partitions on first floor; very good board partitions all over second floor.
5. Doorways and doors: Seem original.
6. Trim: Seems original.

7. Hardware: Mostly original.
8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
9. Heating: Original fireplaces remain; lintel of kitchen fireplace is 22" high and 13" wide.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Near road on small slope; house faces south.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Farm out houses.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Little.

Prepared by Bart Anderson - May 1959  
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